

THE
MASSACHUSETTS WATCHMAN,
AND PERIODICAL JOURNAL.

MAY, 1810.

NUMBER 12.

LORD ALBEMARLE.

.....

Being spoken to by lord P—to solicit the king for the green ribbon, took an opportunity to present lord P—'s humble duty to the king and ask the favour. "What ! give him a ribbon?" says his majesty ; " a fellow that has always been *interfering* with the court ? how could you ask it, Albemarle ?" Sire, (says my lord) he intends in future to vote for the court." "Well, well ! I don't care for that ; he's a puppy, a mere *puppy*, and shall not have it." The king having said this, was turning on his heel ; when Albemarle asked him what answer he should return to lord P—. " Tell him he's a puppy !" "Well but, Sire, admitting that, 'tis a puppy sincerely inclined *te follow his master*." " Aye !" says the king, " are you sure of that ?" "Perfectly so, Sire." " Why, then, (says his majesty) let the *puppy* have *his collar*."

Shakespeare makes king *John* say well to *Hubert*—

It is the *curse of kings* to be attended by slaves, that take their *humours* for a warrant.

BIOGRAPHY
OF
JAMES MADISON,
President of the United States.

JAMES MADISON is a native of the county of Orange, in the state of Virginia. His family in all its branches are respectable, opulent and independent. His father, Col. James Madison, was a man of great respectability, he provided handsomely for a large family, and to Mr. Madison, his eldest son, he gave a considerable estate including his family seat.

Mr. Madison completed his education at Princeton College, where he was so much distinguished for his genius, application, acquirements and amiable qualities, that he possessed the esteem and respect of the president, professors and students of that seminary, in as high a degree as any young man ever did.

Mr Madison's first appearance in public life was in the year 1776. He was elected in the spring of that year a member of the convention of Virginia for his county. By that convention the present government of Virginia was formed, and the delegates of Virginia were instructed in the month of May in that year, to vote in Congress for a declaration of independence. Mr. Madison, it is said took no part in the business of that assembly, owing to his extreme diffidence. He was soon afterwards appointed a member of the executive council of Virginia, and continued a member of

that board until he was delegeted to represent that commonwealth in the Congress which sat in the year 1779. During all this time, it is not known that Mr. Madison ever made a public display of his abilities, and it is presumed he owed his advancement to the strong pledge that was made by some of our most distingulshed citizens for his talents. Of that number Mr. Jefferson is believed to have been the first to distinguish, and the most active to bring into his country's service, the superior mind of Mr. Madison, whose diffidence and backwardness were such that it is possible that hia service might have been lost to the nation, if the utmost efforts had not been made to draw him into the active exercise of his powers. It is believed by a gentleman, who knew Mr. Madison well, when he first went to Congress, that he would not in that body, small as it was, have been able to coquer his extreme embarrasment, if it had not been for the great pressure arising from the importance of the crisis, and his being sometimes associated with men, who could not, without his aid, sustain the common burthen. From their first acquaintance to this moment, it is believed there has subsisted between Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, the ntmost intimacy and confidence, founded puon mutual esteem and respect.

Mr. Madison continued in Congress until the year 1688, when he became ineligible under the confederation, which limited

the service of a member to three years. The ensuing year he was elected a member of the Virginia assembly. From the circumstance of Mr. Madison's having been educated out of the state, and his long service in Congress, when he took his seat in the Virginia assembly, he found himself almost a stranger. But the very high reputation in Congress gave him a place in the confidence of those who did not know his person. The period was deeply interesting. It began then to be understood that the union of the states must be lost, or the government new modelled. In that session Mr. Madison made some efforts to give to Congress resources to comply with the engagements of the nation. To the state the time was peculiarly important. The revisal of their body of laws, so as to make them conform to republican principles, had been referred to commissioners, had been reported to the legislature four years before, and had remained unacted upon. That work was now taken up, and was carried through principally by the efforts of Mr. Madison. And in particular the bill for religious freedom, which made a part of that work, was indebted mainly to his able and zealous advocacy of its passage, without any retrenchment of its liberal principles. Through all the interesting scenes of that session, Mr. Madison displayed such talents, integrity and patriotism, that at the end of that year there was no man who stood

higher in the confidence and affections of all who knew him.

In 1783, he was re-elected to the Virginia assembly. During the session of that year, he proposed and carried through that body, a recommendation that deputies should meet from all the states at Annapolis, for the purpose of making some change in the confederation. It is known that this effort did not produce all the good effects expected from it ; but it is likewise known that the recommendation of that meeting caused the convocation of the convention at Philadelphia that gave us our present constitution. Mr. Madison was, it is believed, elected a member of that convention by the unanimous vote of the legislature. It is said in that body there was no member more distinguished for wisdom and love of country. About the same time Mr. Madison was re-elected a member of the old Congress. The evidence of the very able support given by him to this constitution is in print : Upon that subject the reader is referred to the debates in the Virginia Convention.

Mr. Madison was elected a member of the first House of Representatives that convened under the constitution. His services in that body during the eighty years of the administration of General Washington are known to all. For several years before the establishment of this government and until the commencement of the war between France and England, there was

no man in America in whom Gen. Washington confided more than in Mr. Madison ; and if he was afterwards less frequently consulted by him, it was owing to the ascendancy which Col. Hamilton had obtained in the administration.

Mr. Madison has been in public life for thirty-three years. He is about fifty-six years of age. During his whole life, it is believed, there is not a single act for which he can be reproached as a man or as a citizen. He is a singular instance of a person who has been so much the subject of envy to some, and so much in the way of the views and interests of others, escaping the imputation of having done an improper act from an improper motive.

It is believed Mr. Madison has not at this time, and that he never had a personal enemy, for a cause that could be avowed.

DR. BEATIE'S OPINION OF THE CHRISTIAN
RELIGION.

“ The Christian Religion, according to my creed, is a very simple thing ; intelligible to the meanest capacity, and what, if we are at pains to join practice to knowledge, we may make ourselves acquainted with, without turning over many books. It is the distinguished excellence of this religion, that it is entirely popular and fitted, both in its doctrines and its evidences, to all conditions and capacities of reasonable creatures—a character which does not be-

long to any other religious or philosophical system that ever appeared in the world. I wonder to see so many men eminent both for their piety and their capacity, labouring to make a mystery of this divine institution. If God vouchsafes to reveal himself to mankind, can we suppose that he chooses to do it in such a manner as that none but the learned and contemplative can understand him ?——The generality of mankind can never, in any possible circumstances, have leisure or capacity for learning, or profound contemplation. If, therefore, we make Christianity a mystery, we exclude the greater part of mankind from the knowledge of it ; which is directly contrary to the intention of its author, as is plain from his explicit and reiterated declarations. In a word, I am perfectly convinced that an intimate acquaintance with the Scripture, particularly the gospels, is all that is necessary to our accomplishment in true Christian knowledge. I have looked into some systems of Theology ; but I never read one of them to an end, because I found I could never reap any instruction from them. To darken what is clear, by wrapping it up in the veil of system and science, was all the purpose that the best of them seemed to me to answer.

(Letter to Sir Wm. Forbes.

FRANKLIN.

The late Dr. Franklin concludes a letter to his friend, G. Whaley, esq. (writ-

ten at Philadelphia, May 18, 1787) in the following words :—You are now 78 and I am 82---You tread fast upon my heels : But though I have more strength and spirit, you can not come up to me till I stop ; which must now be soon, for I am grown so old as to have buried most of the friends of my youth ; and I now often hear persons whom I knew when children, called old Mr. such a one, to distinguish them from their sons, now men grown and in business ; so that by living twelve years beyond David's period, I seem to have intruded myself into the company of posterity, when I ought to be a bed and asleep. Yet had I gone at 70, it would have cut off 12 of the most active years of my life, employed too in matters of the greatest importance, but whether I have been doing good or mischief, it is for time to discover. I only know that I intend well, and I hope all will end well.

ADDRESS TO RUM.



HAIL, blessed Rum ! I adore thee ! thy name filleth my heart with Delight ! Accept the penegyric which floweth eagerly from my lips. If I fail to express the amount of thine excellence, it is owing to the faintness of language and not to my intention ! I am earnest to give thee thy due praise—My heart swelleth within me ; but my tongue, awed by the importance of the task, faileth to perform its office.

Could I raise my theme in lofty eloquence, far above the performance of all ancient orators—the eulogy on thy name would still be imperfect.

O, the pleasure ! O, the rapture of the drunkard—when he gutteth thee down his throat. He is willing, for the sake of enjoying thee, to lie by hours as if lifeless, exposed to the scorn and contempt of a surrounding world.

Finally, O, Rum ! what unspeakable virtues are thine ! thou punishest the intemperate man, with the loss of character, with the loss of property, with the loss of bodily and mental faculties, and with the loss of almost every earthly blessing ! Thou layest his vomiting carcass on the dust, and by giving him a brutal appearance, presentest him to the world in his true character.

ANECDOTES.



A learned man made a practice of placing himself at a mosque, and preaching to the people. One of the congregation wept constantly. One day the preacher said, “My words make great impression on this man’s heart, which is the reason of his crying so much.” Others observed thus to the man that wept. “The learned man does not make any impression on our minds ; what kind of a heart must you have, to be always in tears.” He answered, I do not weep at his discourse ; but I had a

goat, of whom I was exceedingly fond, and when he grew old, he died; now whenever the learned man speaks and wags his chin, the goat comes to my remembrance, for he had just such a look.

In such of the Roman Catholic countries where superstition still has a hold, there is an order of priests called Friars, who cannot by law exercise certain functions belonging to the higher orders of the priesthood—a young lady some years ago called into a monastery at a place called Caluetta, in the island of Medeira, in order to confess, and finding a Friar (or brother) of that house alone in one of the chapels, she kneeled down by him and told him all her sins—The Friar said nothing, she asked him for absolution—‘I am no priest [said the Friar] I cannot give you absolution’—*no priest!* said the lady, very much surprised, and in a great passion—No, madam, answered the Friar, drily—Well said she, I’ll go and complain to your superiors, for your daring to take my confession—and I’ll go, (returned the Friar) *and tell your blabbing to your husband!*—mum was the word.

It is recorded of Sir Isaac Newton, that *having occasion once*, from the negligence of his servant, *to be in a rage*, he ran up stairs to his library, to find a *Treatise on Anger*, that he might know how to conduct himself in a passion!

A Country Girl lately riding past a Turnpike-Gate without paying *tribute*, the Tollman hailed her and demanded his fee—she asked him by what authority he desired toll of her—he answered, the sign would convince her that the law allowed six cents for a man and horse—“ Well (replied the Girl] this is a *Woman* and *Mare*, therefore you have nothing to expect !”—and she rode on, leaving him to the laughter of the bystanders.

A SECRETARY of King George 2. requested to know of him who should be appointed to fill a certain vacant office. The king being in a pet replied, “ I care not who has the office, you may commission the devil, if you please.” Well answered the Secretary, your majesty, I suppose will have the commission run in the common form, “ *To our trusty and well beloved.*”

A BARBER in the City of London, to attract custom, had painted on his sign the full length picture of Absalom, suspended on the branches of a tree by the hair of his head, and underneath the following original commentary on the lamentation of David—

*O Absalom ! O Absalom ! my son ! my son !
Had you but worn a periwig, you'd never
been undone.*

WHEN the learned Dr. Henry Moore was on his death-bed, upon being told that his disorder was occasioned by wind, he replied, “ Then pray Heaven I may not go off in a storm.”

*ODE on the death of Mr. Elijah Parsons of
Enfield, addressed to the afflicted Widow.*

*The flattering world's delusive charms,
Elude our eager grasping arms :
In vain the powers of sense unite,
To seek for unaloy'd delight.*

*But friendship sacred and serene,
Displays to view a rapt'rous scene,
Where social harmony and love
Seem blended with the powers above.*

*Here love that social passion dies,
Nor leaves a hope beneath the skies—
Your friend and lover's far away,
In realms of everlasting DAY.*

*There join the saints array'd in white,
Palms in their hands, their songs unite,
Angelic choirs the concert join,
And make a harmony divine.*

*He now sees JESUS' glorious face,
And sings his dying love and grace,
And in his image dress'd complete,
Adores and worships at his feet.*

*Now dry those silent tears, that flow
To ease your heavy load of woe,
His loss the source of all your pain,
Is now to him a glorious G A I N.*

This Number ends a Volume of the
WATCHMAN, and though this may be
stiled Vol. I. yet it is independent of any
other, and is entire. We propose the pub-
lication of another volume which will be a
work disconnected with this.

End of No. 12, and end of this Volume.